

a cam 5020 engaged with the carriage HC. A driving force from the drive motor 5013 is controlled by a transmission means such as clutch engagement and disengagement.

According to the above configuration, the capping, 5 cleaning, and suction recovery are performed by the action of the lead screw 5004 when the carriage HC is within an area on the home position side so that desired processes can be carried out at corresponding locations. However, desired actions may be performed with known timings.

10 In such an IJRA, the ink-jet cartridge IJC or ink in it constitutes office consumables.

Other embodiments

Needless to say, the object of the present invention 15 can also be attained by a storage medium (or recording medium) containing the software program code that implements the functions of the above embodiment: it is supplied to a system or apparatus, whose computer (or a CPU or MPU) then reads the program code out of the storage medium 20 and executes it. In that case, the program code itself read out from the storage medium will implement the functions of the above embodiment, and the storage medium which stores the program code will constitute the present invention. The functions of the above embodiment may be implemented 25 not only by the program code read out and executed by the computer, but also by part or all of the actual processing

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executed, in accordance with instructions from the program code, by an OS (operating system) running on the computer.

Furthermore, the functions of the above embodiment may also be implemented by part or all of the actual processing

- 5 executed by a CPU or the like contained in a function expansion card inserted in the computer or a function expansion unit connected to the computer if the processing is performed in accordance with instructions from the program code that has been read out of the storage medium
- 10 and written into memory on the function expansion card or unit.

In the case where the present invention is applied to the storage medium mentioned above, the storage medium will store the program code that corresponds to the above-described sequence in FIG. 4; the program code which corresponds to the flowcharts in FIGS. 10 to 12, 16, 17, 19, and 22; and/or the program code which creates the data for the screens shown in FIGS. 5 to 9, and 18.

As described above, the present invention can centrally control circulation of office consumables. In particular, it allows efficient control of the processes from sales of business consumables to collection.

Furthermore, it provides users a mechanism for performing operations from purchase of office consumables to

- 25 collection efficiently.

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